

HOME PAGE	MY TIMES	TODAY'S PAPER	VIDEO	MOST POPULAR	TIMES TOPICS	TimesSelect Free 14-Day Trial   Welcome, <a href="#">vraks</a>	
-----------	----------	---------------	-------	--------------	--------------	--	--



# World

☒ World
 ☐ All NYT

WORLD	U.S.	N.Y. / REGION	BUSINESS	TECHNOLOGY	SCIENCE	HEALTH	SPORTS	OPINION	ARTS	STYLE	TRAVEL	JOBS	REAL
-------	------	---------------	----------	------------	---------	--------	--------	---------	------	-------	--------	------	------

AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EUROPE MIDDLE EAST



## Who are your Ancestors?

[Click Here](#)

## Indian Ocean Tsunami Detection Coming

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Published: December 1, 2006

**Filed at 5:22 p.m. ET**

CAPE PANWA, Thailand (AP) -- A Thai ship set sail Friday to deploy the Indian Ocean's first high-tech tsunami detection and warning device, a step toward preventing a repeat of the catastrophic loss in the 2004 tsunami.

The ship, which departed from the island of Phuket, will sail to a spot about 700 miles west of the Thai coast near the Nicobar islands, where it will deploy what is known as the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis, or DART, system.

The DART buoy, a sophisticated measurement and communications device developed by the U.S. government, will be the first of its kind in the Indian Ocean when it is deployed Sunday. It will ensure residents of the area's coastal regions get at least an hour's warning of an impending tsunami.

Nearly 250,000 people in 12 Indian Ocean countries died from the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami caused by a 9.3 magnitude earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

Scientists knew the size and location of the quake within 10 minutes, but had no way of knowing if it had generated a dangerous tsunami. What little information was known could not be communicated effectively due to the lack of a warning network.

The international community rallied in the wake of the tragedy with reconstruction assistance and a dedication to avert similar tragedies in the future.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, a [U.N.](#) organization, took the lead in planning for an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System.

The United States is contributing \$16.6 million over two years in money and expertise, including paying for the \$500,000 device. Thailand is paying for its maintenance, which is at least as expensive as the original capital outlay.

The DART device will link a water pressure detector 3 miles under the Indian Ocean seabed with a tethered buoy.

Located at a key point along the area's main undersea fault line, the device will note any increased water pressure indicating a tsunami following an earthquake. It will relay the data to the buoy, which is designed to transmit it by satellite to monitoring stations in more than two dozen Indian Ocean countries within seven minutes.

"This is a very symbolic key step," said Curt Barrett, director of the International Tsunami Project Team for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Now we will finally be able to immediately determine if there is a tsunami from an earthquake," Barrett said in an interview.

[More Articles in International »](#)

### Get Urbanite by E-Mail



Sign up to find out all you need to know about New York every weekday. [See Sample](#)  
[vivian@iotws.org](mailto:vivian@iotws.org) [Sign Up](#)  
[Change E-mail Address](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

E-MAIL

PRINT

SAVE

ARTICLE TOOLS

SPONSORED BY

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**  
LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

## Who are your Ancestors?

[Click Here](#)

### MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED ☐ BLOGGED ☐ SEARCHED ☐

1. [The 10 Best Books of 2006](#)
2. [Side Effects: Profit and Questions on I Therapy](#)
3. [Op-Ed Contributor: Puffing on Poloni](#)
4. [Sex Abuse of Girls Is Stubborn Scourg](#)
5. [Editorial: When the Joneses Can't Kee](#)
6. [History for Sale; Needs Work](#)
7. [Medicaid Plan Prods Patients Toward](#)
8. [Paul Krugman: Economic Storm Si](#)
9. [Editorial: Bush, Maliki and That Mem](#)
10. [More Doctors Turning to the Business](#)

[Go to Complete List »](#)



**Theater**  
[nytimes.com/theater](http://nytimes.com/theater)

"Most of them don't turn into tsunamis, so it's very important to know if a particular earthquake, an 8.1 magnitude one, for example, which can trigger a tsunami, is it a real thing or not a real thing?" he said.

The DART system was developed in the mid-1990s and six of the buoys were deployed in the Pacific at the time of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Barrett said.

The catastrophe was a wake-up call not only for the devastated areas, but also for the U.S. and the rest of the world. There are now 20 buoys ringing the Pacific Ocean, designed to protect an area that is also vulnerable to tsunamis, he said.

A recent 8.1 magnitude earthquake in Russia's Kuril islands in the north Pacific proved the effectiveness of the DART system, Barrett said.

When the quake occurred Nov. 15, "five of the DART buoys engaged automatically and started sending information," he said.

The computer modeling system proved "pretty accurate," he said. Warnings and alerts went out in time and the DART buoys indicated -- accurately, it turned out -- that the generated tsunami was very small.

[Ethan Hawke & Amy Irving in "The Coast of One - Voyage"](#)

Also in Theater:

[Julianne Moore & Bill Nighy in "The Vertice](#)

[Huey Lewis in "Chicago"](#)

[Blythe Danner in "Suddenly Last Summer"](#)



#### ADVERTISEMENTS



[More Articles in International »](#)

[Need to know more? 50% off home delivery of The Times.](#)

#### INSIDE NYTIMES.COM

##### TimesSelect



[Rhoden: Two Cities, Two Quarterbacks](#)

##### BOOKS »



[Photography Books](#)

##### TimesSelect

##### An Apology and a Duel

Nicholas D. Kristof apologizes to Doberman Pinschers, and challenges Tyco C.E.O. Barry Diller to a kind of duel.

##### ARTS »



[Executive Producer of 'The Daily Show' Leaves](#)

##### TRAVEL »



[Missions of a Lost Utopia](#)

##### STYLE »



[No 'I Do' It, Too](#)

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports Top](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Job Market](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Aut](#)

[Copyright 2006 The Associated Press](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)